

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00295 01 OF 02 101456Z

ACTION ACDA-10

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INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

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USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0295

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JUNE 10 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 139TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ON JUNE 10, CHAIRED BY FRG REP (BEHREND), CANADIAN REP (COX) DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT. IN IT, HE EXAMINED THE GEOGRAPHIC REALITIES RELEVANT TO THE SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND COMPARED THE EASTERN AND WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACHES IN THE LIGHT OF THESE REALITIES. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE CANADIAN STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1) THE IMMUTABLE FACTS OF GEOGRAPHY BEAR VITALLY ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND CANNOT, THEREFORE, BE LEFT OUT OF ACCOUNT IN EVALUATING POTENTIAL REDUCTION AND
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00295 01 OF 02 101456Z

LIMITATION OBLIGATIONS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS.

2) THE MOST STRIKING GEOGRAPHIC FACT IN THIS REGARD IS THE PROXIMITY OF THE USSR TO THE REDUCTION AREA.

3) IN CONTRAST, THE PRINCIPAL WESTERN POWER, THE UNITED

STATES IS LOCATED 5000 KILOMETERS AWAY AND IS SEPARATED FROM THE AREA BY THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

4) CLEARLY, GEOGRAPHY CONFERS IMPORTANT MILITARY ADVANTAGES ON THE EAST WHICH COULD BE IGNORED ONLY AT THE EXPENSE OF WESTERN SECURITY.

5) DESPITE GEOGRAPHY'S OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE, THE EAST CONTINUES TO DENY ITS RELEVANCE TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS, ARGUING THAT GEOGRAPHY WAS DISPOSED OF IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS OR HAS BEEN FULLY ACCOMMODATED IN THE EVOLUTION OF EASTERN AND WESTERN FORCE STRUCTURES.

6) THE ADDITIONAL EASTERN ARGUMENT THAT ANY CONFLICT IN THE REDUCTION AREA WOULD INEVITABLY SPREAD BEYOND IT ONLY SERVES TO HIGHLIGHT THE EAST'S GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGE INHERENT IN THE LOCATION OF LARGE SOVIET FORCES IN THE ADJACENT USSR.

7) THE EAST HAS ALSO CONTENDED THAT OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS POPULATION BASE, ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AND AVAILABILITY OF RESERVISTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH GEOGRAPHY, BUT EVEN WHEN THIS IS DONE THE PROXIMITY OF THE USSR TO THE REDUCTION AREA AGAIN GIVES THE ADVANTAGE TO THE EAST.

8) CONTRARY TO EASTERN ALLEGATIONS, NEITHER WESTERN FORCES LOCATED NEAR TO CENTRAL EUROPE NOR US AIRLIFT CAPACITY COMPENSATE FOR SOVIET ABILITY TO INTRODUCE FORCES RAPIDLY INTO THE AREA.

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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00295 01 OF 02 101456Z

9 THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH IGNORES THE IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHY IN SEEKING TO TREAT ALL PARTICIPANTS IDENTICALLY, THEREBY FAILING TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE DIFFERENT IMPACT OF REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS ON STATES LOCATED WITHIN THE AREA AS COMPARED TO THOSE LOCATED OUTSIDE IT.

10) IN CONTRAST, THE WESTERN POSITION TAKES GEOGRAPHIC REALITIES INTO ACCOUNT BY:

A) FOCUSING REDUCTIONS ON GROUND FORCES, WHERE THE DESTABILIZING POTENTIAL OF EXISTING EASTERN SUPERIORITIES IS COMPOUNDED BY THE PROXIMITY TO THE AREA OF THE LARGE SOVIET GROUND FORCES INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION;

B) PROVIDING THE COLLECTIVE CEILINGS WHICH AVOID A SITUATION WHICH WOULD OCCUR UNDER NATIONAL CEILINGS, AS PROPOSED BY THE EAST, WHERE WESTERN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA COULD FALL BELOW AGREED RESIDUAL LEVELS WHILE SOVIET FORCES ON SOVIET TERRITORY WOULD BE UNLIMITED;

C) CALLING FOR SUB-CEILINGS ON US AND SOVIET FORCES GIVEN THE
UNIQUE MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF THESE TWO POWERS AND, AS
REGARDS THE LATTER, THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WEST OF THE
LARGE SOVIET FORCES STATIONED IN THE USSR;;

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00295 02 OF 02 101507Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0295

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

D) RULING OUT REDUCTION OR LIMITATION OF THE ARMAMENTS OF
OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN VIEW OF THE LARGE STOCKS OF
ARMAMENTS ON SOVIET TERRITORY AND OF THE DIFFERENTIAL IMPACT
SUCH REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS WOULD HAVE ON COUNTRIES LOCATED
IN THE AREA AS OPPOSED TO THOSE LOCATED OUTSIDE IT AND;

E) GIVING DUE WEIGHT IN FIRST-PHASE PROPOSALS TO THE FACT
THAT SOVIET FORCES WOULD ONLY HAVE TO WITHDRAW A FEW HUNDRED
KILOMETERS WHILE THOSE OF THE US WOULD HAVE TO WITHDRAW THOUSANDS
OF KILOMETERS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

11) EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD REMOVE A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO
PROGRESS BY RECOGNIZING THE RELEVANCE OF GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES.
THIS, IN TURN, WOULD MAKE IT ALL THE MORE CLEAR THAT WESTERN
PROPOSALS PROVIDE A REALISTIC AND EQUITABLE BASIS FOR AN

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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00295 02 OF 02 101507Z

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